

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected drawing incorporates the following drawing changes:

Fig. 1 is being amended to add labels to the boxes and to connect the reference numerals with lead lines rather than arrowheads.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 2, 6, 8, and 12-16 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawing as including unlabeled rectangular boxes. By way of the present amendment, Applicants are submitting herewith corrected drawings including labels for the boxes in Figure 1. Thus, this objection is believed to be overcome.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to claim 8 as depending from an incorrect claim. By way of the present amendment, this has now been corrected, so that claim 8 now depends on claim 15, which is the new version of claim 7. Accordingly, this objection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have reworded the claims so as to follow standard U.S. format. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this indefiniteness has now been removed.

Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as being indefinite in claiming a broad and narrow range. Applicants are not clear as to what range the Examiner is referring to. In rewriting these claims, Applicants submit that any such problem has been overcome.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over Driscoll et al. (U.S. Patent 5,067,162) in view of Schiller et al. (U.S. Patent 4,581,760). Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over Driscoll et al. and Schiller et al. and further in view of Brumbley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,982,913). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

First, it is pointed out that independent claims 1 and 7 have been rewritten as new independent claims 13 and 15. Likewise, claims 3-5 have been combined and rewritten in independent form as new claim 14. Likewise, claims 9-11 have been combined and rewritten as new claim 16. Claims 14 and 16 are now independent and no longer refer to the method by which the previously registered information is determined.

The Examiner relies on Driscoll et al. to show a method for registering fingerprint information by way of a sensing surface and further subdividing the image into relatively small areas. Each small area is analyzed to determine its level of local distinctiveness and repeatability with the most distinct sections selected to characterize the fingerprint. The uniqueness of each section is determined within its surrounding area 96. The Examiner reads the surrounding area 96 as equivalent to A' and the candidate reference section 94, the equivalent

of A". The Examiner admits that this reference does not show that the center point of each candidate reference section is the used in determining its uniqueness.

The Examiner relies on Schiller et al. to show that the position of the reference section is the center of the reference block.

The Examiner relies on Brumbley et al. to show a method for finding the mean value of the coordinates and for selecting the points in the group which have the smallest distance to the mean value point.

Applicants submit that the claims as amended are not anticipated by or obvious over any of these references or any combination thereof. In the present invention, when a center point is determined to be unique, not only is the center point and its surrounding area A" stored, but also the part area A' is also stored. Thus, all three bits of information are stored. This differs from Driscoll et al. where unique reference sections are identified and referred to as templates and stored. There is no mention as to any special way of identifying the uniqueness of a reference section, unlike the present invention, by means of which the part surface is only studied for uniqueness if the center point of the area turns out to be unique. However, Driscoll et al. does not show storing of the immediate surrounding area and the part area.

The Examiner relies on Schiller et al. to show the use of the center point. However, the combination of Schiller et al. and Driscoll et al. still does not teach the storing of the center point in both areas. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 13 and 15, which correspond to original claims 1 and 7 are allowable.

Likewise, claims 2 and 8 which depend from these independent claims are likewise allowable. In addition, these claims further recite the selection of the second number of center points for further use.

Claims 14 and 16 are a combination of claims 3-5 and 9-11, respectively. These claims further describe the displacement of the part surfaces and angular positions and an analysis of the selected points based on mean values.

Applicants submit that the angular correction of the present application is different from that disclosed in Driscoll et al. in column 17. Driscoll et al. discloses rotating all reference sections collectively centered on one section known as the primary reference section. The present invention as defined by claims 14 and 16 teach only those part surfaces which satisfy the verification criteria at one and the same angular displacement are used. Thus, in the present invention, the part surfaces are rotated and attempted individually. Thus, Applicants submit that the references do not teach the same invention.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to combine the teachings of Driscoll et al. and Brumbley et al. As explained above, Driscoll et al. rotates all segments collectively. Accordingly, calculating locations and distance errors for the segments would be pointless since the segments are rotated collectively which would introduce errors. That is, Brumbley et al.'s method of calculating distance errors is different from that of the present invention where the method of calculation is outlined. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the method of calculating distance errors as presented in the claims is not obvious over

Brumbley et al., either alone or combined with any of the other references.

Accordingly, claims 14 and 16 are considered to be allowable.

Claims 6 and 12 depend from these claims and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, these two claims describe the further processing of the second selected points. Accordingly, these claims are considered to be additionally allowable.

CONCLUSION

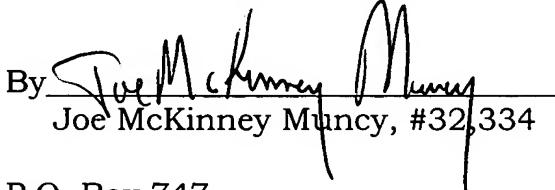
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections, and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joe McKinney Muncy (Reg. No. 32,334) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)